

FACT SHEET



Chemical Commodities, Inc.
Olathe, Kansas

October 2002

EPA Region 7 is continuing to investigate the Chemical Commodities, Inc. (CCI) site in Olathe, Kansas. The Boeing Company (Boeing) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), are two of twelve potentially responsible parties for the site. They have started a detailed site study. The study will tell the extent of the ground water contamination and ways to clean it up.

As part of this investigation, Boeing will start a new ground water study. The study is scheduled to begin the last week of October 2002. This new study will supplement earlier ground water studies that have been done around the CCI site. All of the work will be done under EPA's oversight.

BACKGROUND

The CCI site is at 320 South Blake Street in Olathe, Kansas. CCI was a chemical brokerage business and operated from 1951 to 1989. CCI purchased chemicals from various companies and recycled, repackaged, and resold the chemicals. As a result of its operations, the soil and ground water were contaminated with certain chemicals including trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachlorethylene (PCE). These are chemicals that easily evaporate into the air.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The new ground water study will involve collecting ground water samples from four new wells and from existing wells in the area around the CCI property. The sampling activities will continue through the month of November 2002.

The new study will involve drilling activities to install the four new wells. Three of the four new wells will be located in the neighborhood west of the CCI site. The fourth well will be located south of the CCI site between Keeler Street and the railroad tracks. Boeing's contractor, Haley and Aldrich, will do the work. The drilling activities are scheduled to start the week of October 28, 2002, and may continue through the week of November 4, 2002.

CURRENT RESPONSE ACTIONS

Boeing and DOD are jointly funding a Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS). The focus of the RI is to define the extent of off-site ground water contamination. The purpose of the FS is to evaluate cleanup alternatives.

Much of the RI has been completed. Initial results indicate that TCE contaminated

ground water has moved about 1,000 feet, in a westerly direction, from the site. The earlier phases of the RI also showed that some of the contamination has penetrated into the bedrock, which starts about 10 feet below the ground. Because of this, a new study is being planned which will focus on the extent of contamination in the bedrock. Results of the new study will help EPA to better understand how ground water is moving through the bedrock zone, and how far the contamination has spread.

PREVIOUS RESPONSE ACTIONS

Several response actions have been completed at the site. These actions addressed the immediate threats posed by contamination on the site. Between 1989 and 1991, EPA Region 7 conducted sampling activities, removed and disposed of all containerized chemicals from the site, dismantled and disposed of sheds, tanks, and trailers used to store chemicals, excavated surface soil for both on-site and off-site disposal, decontaminated the interior surfaces of the warehouse building, and installed a ground water interceptor trench and treatment system.

In 1995, Rocketdyne, now Boeing, conducted a site characterization study. The study focused on the nature and extent of soil and ground water contamination on the site. The study indicated elevated levels of various chemicals including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds, heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyls, and pesticides in surface and subsurface soils. The study also showed high levels of VOCs in the ground water beneath the site. The primary ground water contaminant is TCE, a common industrial solvent.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Please visit the following information repositories, during normal business hours, for detailed information about the Chemical Commodities, Inc. site.

Olathe Public Library
201 E. Park
Olathe, Kansas

EPA Region 7 Docket Room
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information, please contact:

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